

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 AF-10 IO-14 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /157 W

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R 201146Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7560

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4659

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR OCLR UN XF NO

SUBJ: NIGHT REACH: SEARCH FOR ALTERNATE SOURCES OF UN AIRLIFT

REF: (A) OSLO 4459; (B) STATE 236014

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE NORWEGIANS ARE STILL STUDYING OUR REQUEST THAT THEY VOLUNTEER SOME ADDITIONAL AIRLOFT CAPACITY TO THE UN BUT HAVE ASKED FOR MORE INFORMATION. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR ANSWERING NORWEGIAN QUESTIONS, LISTED BELOW, ON ROUTES AND FREQUENCIES, REFUELING ARRANGEMENTS, AND COSTS. END SUMMARY.

1. ERIK HIMLE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY, ASKED ME TO CALL DECEMBER 19 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF TWO MATTERS I HAD RAISED WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ON DECEMBER 4, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING AIRLIFT FOR UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES (REF A). HIMLE SAID
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IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE NORWEGIANS TO ASSIST IN

THE AIRLIFT BEFORE MID-JANUARY BECAUSE NORWEGIAN TRANSPORTS WILL BE FULLY ENGAGED UNTIL THEN IN TRANSPORTING TROOPS TO AND FROM NORTH NORWAY (ALL OF WHOM RECEIVE A HOLIDAY TRIP HOME EITHER AT CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR). THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD HELPING OUT THEREAFTER IS POSITIVE, BUT BEFORE DECIDING THEY WOULD NEED MORE PRECISE INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING:

A. WHAT DO WE HAVE IN MIND WITH REGARD TO ROUTES, FREQUENCY, AND LOADS? HIMLE REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF REGULAR FLIGHTS, IN SUPPORT OF THE NORDIC CONTINGENTS, FROM OSLO TO STOCKHOLM, HELSINKI, NICOSIA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT SAID THAT, HAVING BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE OTHER SCANDINAVIANS, IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS WAS WHAT WE HAD IN MIND OR WHETHER WE WERE THINKING OF OTHER ROUTES OR MISSIONS.

B. WHAT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE FOR REFUELING? THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT OUTSIDE NORWAY, UNLESS SPECIALLY ARRANGED BY THE UN OR OTHERWISE. EVEN WITHIN NORWAY IT MIGHT PROVE A PROBLEM, SINCE THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY HAVE BEEN TOLD TO EXPECT A 20 TO 25 PERCENT CUT IN PETROL DELIVERIES IN 1974.

C. WOULD PROVISION OF AIRLIFT BE ON A REIMBURSABLE OR NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS? HIMLE SAID NORWAY WOULD OF COURSE LOOK AT BOTH ALTERNATIVES, BUT ONE WOULD MAKE IT EASIER THAN THE OTHER.

3. I ASKED HOW SIGNIFICANT A POTENTIAL NORWEGIAN CONTRIBUTION MIGHT BE, AND HIMLE INDICATED THAT THE TWO C-130'S PRESENTLY EARMARKED FOR UN PEACEKEEPING PURPOSES WOULD PROBABLY BE ALL THAT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE, GIVEN THE FULL-TIME DOMESTIC NEEDS FOR THE OTHER FOUR C-130'S IN THE NORWEGIAN INVENTORY.

4. AFTER HIMLE HAD POSED HIS QUESTIONS, I TOLD HIM THESE WERE ALL MATTERS THE UN SECRETARIAT WOULD DOUBTLESS BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ANSWER AND RECALLED THAT MY EARLIER APPROACH HAD BEEN IN TERMS OF ASKING WHETHER NORWAY MIGHT CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL

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VOLUNTEERING ASSISTANCE TO THE UN, ADDING THAT THEY WERE CERTAINLY FAIR QUESTIONS TO ASK OF US, GIVEN THE FACT HOWEVER, THAT WE HAD MADE THE INITIAL REQUEST, WE WOULD UNDERTAKE TO LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS ANSWERS WERE AVAILABLE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR A RESPONSE TO THE MINISTRY ON THE THREE QUESTIONS IN PARA. 2 ABOVE.
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